



NEWS RELEASE

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**ANCHORAGE MAN INDICTED BY FEDERAL GRAND JURY
FOR FALSE USE OF PASSPORT AND SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER**

Anchorage, Alaska – United States Attorney Nelson P. Cohen announced that on December 13, 2007, Francisco Sonza Exala of Anchorage, Alaska, was indicted by a federal grand jury in Anchorage on one count of false use of a United States passport and five counts of false use of a social security number.

The six-count indictment named Exala, age 41, as the sole defendant.

According to the indictment, the defendant is charged with presenting a false passport to Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Counts two through six charge the defendant with using a fraudulently obtained social security card to receive certain benefits, such as a Permanent Fund Dividend from the State of Alaska.

Special Assistant United States Attorney John C. Reardon, who presented the case to the grand jury, indicated that the law provides for a maximum total sentence of ten years in prison, a fine of \$250,000, or both. Under the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, the actual sentence imposed would be based upon the seriousness of the offenses and the prior criminal history, if any, of the defendant.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement conducted the investigation leading to the indictment in this case.

An indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. A defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial at which the government must prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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